



January 2005

Sunland Park Riverpark Receives Grant

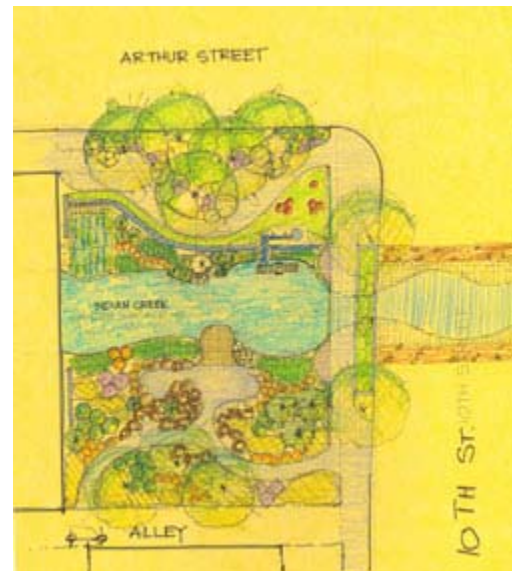
Trail connections made in southern NM



Sunland Park, NM (December 2004) - The City of Sunland Park officially received a New Mexico Recreational Trails Grant to build five miles of new trail along the Rio Grande. The \$235,567 grant was awarded with matching funds from the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation. The trail will connect to an existing 10 miles of newly constructed paved trail in El Paso, TX, making a continuous regional trail system along the Rio Grande. Sunland Park hopes to connect its trail to existing local destinations and proposed new developments. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) helped develop a comprehensive planning process and the establishment of a trails planning group that ultimately developed a city trail plan. The planning group includes representatives from City of Sunland Park, the County and City of El Paso, local schools teachers, business representatives, and interested residents. They are currently developing an interpretive plan for the trail that will include Camino Real National Historic Trail and local railroad history. For more information, please contact Paul Cusumano, RTCA, at paul_cusumano@nps.gov or (505) 988-6093.

Daylighting Indian Creek and Starting a Trail System Helps Revitalize City

Caldwell, Idaho (Fall 2004) - The city of Caldwell, Idaho, broke ground on "daylighting" the first section of Indian Creek in conjunction with the annual Indian Creek Festival and as a first step in their multi-million dollar plan to uncover the creek through five downtown blocks. The site design was developed through a partnership between the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the City of Caldwell. Hundreds of citizens attended the festival and ceremony where Mayor Garret Nancolas rejoiced, "We are going to change Caldwell forever." The city sees the creek as a real asset to their quality of life and their downtown redevelopment plan.



The site design developed as part of the partnership charette for the first link of the daylighting project. Photo courtesy Susan Rosebrough.

The city also worked with the RTCA and ASLA to develop a city-wide trail plan, which includes bike lanes and walking and biking paths. Caldwell received a grant from the Idaho Transportation Department that will be used to construct 3.2 miles of trails and bike lanes connecting the downtown with the library, schools, and community services. For more information, please contact RTCA staff Susan Rosebrough at susan_rosebrough@nps.gov or (206) 220-4121 or Alex Stone at alex_stone@nps.gov or (206) 220-4108.

Voters Support Trails and Greenways

Alpharetta Greenways --Big Creek expansion

Alpharetta, Georgia (November 2004) – Twenty-five miles north of Atlanta, Alpharetta boasts one of the most successful local greenways systems in the metropolitan area. A bond referendum on the 2004 ballot called for a two-mile expansion of the Big Creek Trail at a cost of \$2 million. Supported by 82% of the voters, this is the third bond referendum for trail and greenway expansion that the community has overwhelmingly supported!



Photo courtesy Charlotte Gillis.

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program staff prepared the original “Conceptual Greenways Plan for the City” in 1994. Since that time, the City of Alpharetta continues to implement sections of the trail as identified in the Conceptual Plan. The current network includes 6.5 miles of trail, an emergency call system, a connection to the mass transit system, public restrooms, and connections to a regional mall and office parks. For more information, please contact Charlotte Gillis, Landscape Architect, Southeast Regional Office, at charlotte_gillis@nps.gov or (404) 562-3175.

Former BRAC Property Used To Protect Endangered Species

Community has a new outdoor classroom



Jefferson County, IN (December 30, 2004) – The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks Program transferred, at no cost, a portion of the former Jefferson Proving Ground to Jefferson County for public park and recreational use. The 403-acre property, known as the Western Wooded Parcel provides critical habitat to the endangered Indiana Bat, the state-endangered Kirtland’s Snake, and a variety of other reptiles, amphibians, and birds in its woods and wetlands. Development will be restricted to nature trails for walkers, hikers, and school groups. The local school system is very excited about the land transfer because students will now have an area to observe wildlife in their natural habitat. The fair market value of this land is \$520,000. The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Elyse LaForest, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager – NER, at Elyse_LaForest@nps.gov or (617) 223-5190.

Western wooded parcel. Photo courtesy Elyse LaForest.

Settlement Agreement Signed for Four Hydroelectric Facilities

Lewis River, WA (November 30, 2004) – Two licensees, PacifiCorp and Coliwtz PUD, and twenty other parties, including a mix of federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local citizens, signed an agreement for the Lewis River Relicensing Project. This agreement details a complex plan where anadromous fish will be transported around three high dams to reopen access of up to 174 miles of productive fish habitat. It includes a \$12 million fund to purchase land and/or easements to protect wildlife habitat and allow for appropriate recreation. The agreement also calls for \$20 million in recreation improvements and developments along the Lewis River.

As a part of the recreation negotiation team, the National Park Service (NPS) worked closely with national, state, and local recreation groups to negotiate for construction of new trails, fishing platforms, a non-motorized boating access site, interpretation enhancements, and management of dispersed camping. NPS assisted partners to assure recreation access on the new lands that will be acquired for conservation purposes. For more information, please contact Susan Rosebrough, RTCA/Hydro Project Manager, Seattle, Washington, at susan_rosebrough@nps.gov or (206) 220-4121.



Yale Reservoir, Lewis River. Photo courtesy Susan Rosebrough.

First Section of MacDill Trail at Gadsden Park Completed

A move toward pedestrian friendliness



The MacDill Trail at Gadsden Park.
Photo courtesy Charlotte Gillis.

Tampa, FL (December 3, 2004) - Days after the Tampa Bay area was named the second-least pedestrian-friendly metropolitan area in the nation, city leaders dedicated the first section of the Tampa Greenways and Trails network. The 1.47 mile MacDill Trail, located in South Tampa near MacDill Air Force Base and Tampa Bay, will eventually be 10 miles long. It will connect to the 100 miles of trails and greenways planned for Tampa, including the Friendship Trail Bridge, and to the Pinellas Trail in Pinellas County. The City of Tampa Parks Department was the primary sponsor of the project, in partnership with the City of Tampa Planning and Management Department, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Hillsborough County Greenways Advisory

Committee, Hillsborough County Parks Department, the Friendship Trail Bridge Corporation and the Tampa Greenways & Trails Citizen Advisory Committee. National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program staff worked closely with Parks Department staff to provide organizational and technical assistance from the start of the project to the completion and approval of the Master Plan and its adoption by the City Council. For more information, please contact Charlotte Gillis, Landscape Architect, Southeast Regional Office, at charlotte_gillis@nps.gov or (404) 562-3175.

Tonawanda Rain Garden

Elm Grove, WI (November 2004) - National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) staff provided technical assistance for public involvement, interpretation, and funding for the creation of a "rain garden" at Tonawanda Elementary School in Elm Grove, a suburb of Milwaukee. The planning team included a landscape architect, a representative from the Parents-Teachers Association, staff from Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers, the school, and RTCA but the major muscle behind planting 2,000 native perennials was provided by the students and their parents! This beautiful garden will absorb storm water run-off from the adjacent paved parking lot, thereby improving water quality and reducing flooding in the nearby stream. An interpretive



Photo courtesy Angie Tornes.

sign describing the rain garden's functions and composition will educate many students into the future. This project was funded, in part, by a Tom's of Maine grant. For more information, please contact Angie Tornes, RTCA, at angie_tornes@nps.gov or (414) 297-3605.

Connections Made on the French Broad River Blueway

A blueway paddling guide



Photo courtesy Charlotte Gillis.

French Broad River, TN (December 2004) – A 102-mile blueway along the French Broad River is ready for paddlers! The *French Broad River Blueway in East Tennessee—A Blueway Paddling Guide* has been published and is available online at www.knoxcounty.org/frenchbroad. This guide complements the 116-mile North Carolina section guide, published previously. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) helped identify Tennessee access sites and complete the guide to connect the entire river as a blueway.

The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Advisory Board, which includes the City of Knoxville, Knox County and Cocke County, was the primary partner. These three jurisdictions control the majority of access sites and were instrumental in developing the blueway and guide with RTCA. Other partners include [Riverlink](http://www.riverlink.org), in Asheville, NC, the Ijams Nature Center and Seven Islands Foundation, the Smoky Mountains RC&D, River Sports Outfitters, Tennessee Valley Authority, USDA Forest Service, and The Conservation Fund. RTCA assisted with data collection, mapping information, text preparation, coordination with all the partners, and graphic development and review for the guide with the graphic consulting firm. For more information, please contact Charlotte Gillis, Landscape Architect, Southeast Regional Office, at charlotte_gillis@nps.gov or (404) 562-3175.

Surplus River Access Site Becomes Community's Second Waterfront Park

Community obtains permanent access to Ohio River for waterfowl viewing

Smithland, KY (December 16, 2004) –For the second time in two months, Livingston County, Kentucky has received valuable riverfront property. The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks program transferred the Birdsville Access Site to Livingston County, at no cost, for their second community riverfront park. Located downstream from the Ohio River Islands Wildlife Management Area, the site will be the staging point for waterfowl viewing on these protected islands. This 11.54-acre property, valued at \$519,000, provides a boat launching ramp, open space, and a scenic vista of the Ohio River. Formerly acquired and developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for boating access, the property will be operated as a community riverfront park. NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff negotiated the transfer. For information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, at bill_huie@nps.gov or (404) 562-3175.



Photo courtesy Bill Huie.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs: Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Hydropower Recreation Assistance (HRA) - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - National Trails System (NTS) - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) - Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) -